

IN·RHYTHM

THE LATEST FROM THE RHYTHMS OF FAITH PROJECT



The Rhythms of Faith Project seeks to empower parents and caregivers in family faith formation by leveraging the power of camp experiences.

Welcome to the spring 2025 issue of In-Rhythm, the project newsletter for the Rhythms of Faith Project. These updates include the latest findings from the current phase of the project, what the team has been working on, and what's ahead for the project, including ways camps and churches can engage.

Our hope is to provide an overview of our learnings as we proceed through this multi-year process so that camp leaders, church leaders, and families have real-time access to resources and ideas that will strengthen their ministries. We'll also communicate opportunities to get involved with the project as they arise.



What We've Been Working On

Phase 2 is Up and Running

Phase 2 of the Rhythms of Faith Project is off to an exciting start! Over the next few weeks, members of the project team are traveling to 9 camps spread throughout the country to facilitate learning and strategy retreats with camp leaders and their partner churches. The concept is simple: bring leaders together so that they can deepen their partnership in influencing family faith formation.

The first of these gatherings - at Cross Trails Ministry in Texas, Camp Hebron in Pennsylvania, and Lutherhaven in Idaho - were incredibly collegial events. They included long-time camp enthusiasts and also church leaders who were visiting the camp properties for the first time. Together, church leaders and camp staff brainstormed strategies they could adopt in the coming months and years to support families for faith formation in the home. One of the most surprising things for participants was learning what their ministry partners were already doing to connect the camp experience to church and home!

For some, it is less about creating new strategies from scratch than about better communicating with their partners and sharing existing resources. It's amazing what can happen when we sit down in the same room together focused on a shared objective!

Among the many strategies discussed, the Cross Trails partner churches are committing to hosting a pre-camp gathering at their church for all those registered for or considering camp. This will connect new camp families with those who have been multiple times. It will prime the families for the camp experience and encourage them in faith practices, even before the children attend camp. It will also introduce the camp theme and get families excited about the experience.

The camp staff will provide resources (including songs and Bible study themed materials) to help facilitate these events. What a simple yet potentially impactful strategy to connect camp-church-home and prime families for the camp experience!



Meet the 9 Phase 2 Partner Camps

We're honored to introduce 9 camps we're partnering with in phase 2 of the Rhythms of Faith project!

These camps applied and were chosen from several applicants because of their energy and creativity around connecting camp, church, and home. Over the next 3 years, the leaders of these camps will work closely both together and with the ROF project team to catalyze, strategize, implement, innovate, and evaluate programs and practices that help families form faith in sustainable and impactful ways.

These 9 camps are the learning laboratories and experimental playgrounds for testing the promising strategies for influencing faith in the home. We will be measuring the effectiveness of these strategies through rigorous research. This will include assessments of family faith formation from the perspectives of parents and caregivers before, immediately following, and months after the camp experience.

We are also assessing the summer camp staff experience and the experience of leaders from the partner churches. We are excited to see the results and then work with the camps to refine their strategies over the next 3 years!

The great news is that you do not have to wait for the results. We already have data and resources from the first phase of the project available to everyone.

Stay tuned for upcoming engagement opportunities

As always, we'll be sharing more ways to engage with and be part of the project, including resources and refined strategies to use in your own camp and church ministry now and in the future.



Use these resources to plan and implement new strategies for influencing family faith at your camp and partner churches. We will also be forming cohorts of both camp leaders and church leaders who are interested in diving deeper into the project and working to adopt some of the promising strategies in their contexts.

Start by reaching out to your local church leaders who are camp enthusiasts. Gather a group of 6-8 of them together (in person!) and spend some time discussing ways you can collaborate more fully. You will be amazed by the ideas you generate!

Check out and follow the Rhythms of Faith Facebook page to see pictures and stories from our partner gatherings as they continue throughout the spring.
facebook.com/rhythmsoffaithproject



rhythmsoffaith.com